JULY 17, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK HELD ON JULY 17, 2024 AT 5:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be advised that the notice requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act have been complied with and satisfied in that the annual notice, which gave sufficient notice of the time and place, and conduct of all public meetings of the Municipal Council of the City of New Brunswick, has been filed with the City Clerk, has been placed on an appropriate bulletin board in City Hall and has been transmitted to the official newspaper for the City of New Brunswick, namely The Home News Tribune.

The City Council met with five (5) voting members of the City Council present.

Salute to the Flag..... Leslie R. Zeledón
Pause for a moment of reflection and silence.

Staff in attendance:

YSS Director Melanie Arent
Public Information Officer Bert Baron
Deputy Clerk Shalon T. Bennett
Library Directo Robert Belvin
Assistant City Attorney Joseph Catanese
Planning Director Daniel Dominguez
City Administrator Michael Drulis
Social Services Director Melanie Ford
Assistant City Administrator Brandon Goldberg
Deputy Chief of Fire Department Hasahya Hirya
Captain James Hoover (NBPD)
Officer Jamaal James
Utility Business Manager Michael Licameli
Assistant Director of YSS Cierra McGhee
Fire Official Victor Ortiz
Finance Staff Angel Roman
Administration Staff Salvatore Ruggeri
City Attorney TK Shamy
Fire Department Staff Cheryl Smith
Director of City Market Pamela Stefanek
Director of Engineering and Public Works Thomas Valenti
Director of Water Department Alexei Walus
City Clerk Leslie R. Zeledón

On motion of Council Member Castaneda, seconded by Council Member Ferguson and carried, the minutes of the previous Council Meetings held on June 5, 2024 were approved and adopted as engrossed.

Meeting called to order by Council President Rebecca Escobar with Council Members Anderson, Castaneda, Ferguson, and Fleming present. Council Member Gaskins and Sicora Ludwig were absent.

PUBLIC HEARING

CONTINUATION/TERMINATION OF CONDITIONS ON ABC LICENSE – **RHYTHM HOSPITALITY GROUP, LLC T/A SOCIAL ROOM BAR, LIQUOR LICENSE #1214-33-079-008**

Council President opened the public hearing. TK Shamy read the existing special conditions as currently the license is inactive.
Public Comment: Mr. Faye, counsel for the licensee stated his case on behalf of his client, expressing his opinion for the removal of the special conditions.
On a motion of Council Member Castaneda, seconded by Council Member Ferguson, and carried, the license was renewed without special conditions by Resolution R-072456.

Roll Call:
Aye: Castaneda, Ferguson, Fleming, Anderson, Escobar
Nay:
Abstain:
Motion carried.

R-072400E	TKS	1	**RESOLUTION TO READ 2024 CITY MARKET BUDGET BY TITLE**

Council President Escobar asked City Clerk Zeledón to read R-072400E by title only.
Clerk Zeledón read Resolution R-072400E by title only.

Council President Escobar opened the Public Hearing on the budget being read by title only
Public Comment: Mr. Kratovil and Ms. Moore inquired on R-072400E.

On a motion of Council Member Ferguson, seconded by Council Member Castaneda, and carried, the above resolution to read the Budget by title only was adopted.

Roll Call:
Aye: Castaneda, Ferguson, Fleming, Anderson, Escobar
Nay:
Abstain:
Motion carried.

	PUBLIC HEARING

Before opening the Public Hearing on the 2024 City Market Budget Council President Escobar explained the procedure. CP reminded the public to address all questions to the chair and when necessary, they will be referred to individual members of the Governing Body or Municipal Officials.
CP opened the Public Hearing on the 2024 City Market Budget.
Public Comment: Ms. Moore inquired on the cleaning services with the New Brunswick Parking Authorities' Clean Team. Ms. McClous inquired on the amount allowed for security patrol. Mr. Kratovil inquired on the budget's revenue. Ms. Stefanek and Mr. Drulis responded.

Council Member Escobar closes the public hearing on the 2024 City Market Budget.
On a motion of Council Member Ferguson, seconded by Council Member Castaneda, and carried, the Budget Hearing was closed.

Roll Call:
Aye: Castaneda, Ferguson, Fleming, Anderson, Escobar
Nay:
Abstain:
Motion carried.

R-072400F	TKS	2	**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2024 CITY MARKET BUDGET**

On a motion of Council Member Castaneda, seconded by Council Member Ferguson, and carried, the 2024 City Market Budget was adopted.

Roll Call:
Aye: Castaneda, Ferguson, Fleming, Anderson, Escobar
Nay:
Abstain:
Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

NONE.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

O-072401	**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 15, BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION, CHAPTER 15.04 – UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE, SECTION 15.04.120 – CONSTRUCTION PERMITS AND FEES** DELETE: SECTION 15.04.120 1a and 1c

On a motion of Council Member Castaneda, seconded by Council Member Ferguson, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on first reading and held over for Public Hearing on August 7, 2024 at 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers in City Hall.

Roll Call:
Aye: Castaneda, Ferguson, Fleming, Anderson, Escobar
Nay:
Abstain:
Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A letter from The Middlesex County Utilities Authority regarding the 2024 Quarter 2 Flow and Loading Service Charges.
2. A letter from the Borough of Montvale regarding a Resolution Authorizing the Participation in Litigation to Address the Constitutionality and/or Validity of New Jersey's Affordable Housing Mandates.
3. A letter from The State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection regarding a Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification at 30 Dix Street.
4. A letter from Nick Komandis regarding 261 Livingston LLC, 261 Livingston Ave Block 280 Lot 1.01.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President asked Captain Hoover, Mr. Valenti and Mr. Licameli to give an overview of R-072415, R-072421 and R-072438.
Public Comment: Ms. Moore inquired on R-072414 and R-072424. Mr. Valenti and Council President responded. Mr. Kratovil inquired on R-072412, R-072422, R-072425, R-072435 and R-072438. Mr. Goldberg, Mr. Belvin, Mr. Licameli and Ms. Zeledón responded. Ms. McClous inquired on R-072422. Mr. Belvin responded.
Resolutions R-072441 through R-072473, moved by Council Member Castaneda seconded by Council Member Ferguson and carried were adopted, on consent, by the Municipal Council.

Roll Call:

Aye:	Castaneda, Ferguson, Fleming, Anderson, Escobar
Nay:	
Abstain:	Castaneda (R-072461)

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Council President provided updates in regards to the water quality report and letter. Michael Licameli, Water Utility Business Manager, provided highlights on the lead service line replacement program. Mr. Licameli explained the different manners of outreach and the informational step by step guides provided to residents in Spanish and English. CP Escobar mentioned "Restaurant week" will be taking place and Christmas in July events in the downtown area. Ms. Maria Powell spoke as a concerned citizen and resident of 101 Zebra Way, she mentioned eviction and the need of assistance to prevent the eviction to take place. April McClous inquired on the water quality, updates on the community energy plan and the library upgrades. Ms. Moore asked about the duties of park rangers, the need of extermination (pest control) around Walgreens Pharmacy and Monument Square area and mentioned police cars surrounding her on the way to the doctor's office with her neighbor. Mr. Kratovil stated Route 1 is a dangerous highway, inquired on a draft ordinance on fireworks, the possible retirement of Director Rawls, inquired on an injury of a fire fighter, an error on a water report and spoke on the lead service replacement plan. Ms. Barbara Burton spoke in regards to bus routes, temporary signage and time limit and no parking zones on and around George Street and Livingston Avenue.

On a motion regularly made, seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 P.M.

Leslie R. Zeledón
City Clerk

Rebecca Escobar
Council President